

What Seattle is doing to end homelessness

The City of Seattle is committed to the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness and is making a large investment of time and resources to implement the plan. Unless otherwise noted, funding amounts listed are annual figures.

The City invests nearly \$40 million a year **to prevent and end homelessness**. We are a lead partner in the Committee to End Homelessness and are working hard to implement the Ten-Year Plan (approved in 2005). We also provide **temporary support services** to keep people without homes safe and healthy so they can regain stability and rebuild their lives. The City funds services and programs that provide a **pathway out of homelessness**. We are also working to involve other cities in the region to coordinate efforts and resources. Below are highlights of the City's efforts:

- **Hygiene facilities and day centers.** The City invests \$2.6 million in these facilities, including the Urban Rest Stop and Downtown Emergency Service Center's (DESC) Connections program—where the City spends \$1 million a year to help homeless people with employment, job training, housing search and other services. These programs offer refuge from the streets and provide homeless people with shower and laundry facilities and referrals to other services such as housing and health care. Some centers provide hot meals, storage space, drug/alcohol counseling, and employment services. The City also helps fund Health Care for the Homeless, which is administered by Public Health – Seattle & King County.
- **Meal programs.** The City invests \$540,000 in meal programs. The programs provide meals to low-income and homeless people to help meet nutritional requirements. Sites vary in size and hours of operation. Programs that serve night and day shelters are open every day.
- **Eviction prevention and rental assistance.** The City invests \$3.1 million to help over 1,680 households remain in permanent housing or move from homelessness to permanent housing. These strategies include legal assistance, payee services, housing stability case management, and rental assistance.
- **Enhanced shelter beds.** The City invests \$6 million in 16 shelter programs (1,189 beds and 100 family voucher units) serving homeless single adults and families. Investment in shelter has increased 46% (\$2.9 million) since 2000. Recently, the City has prioritized funding shelters that provide “enhanced” services, that is, on-site assessment and case management in addition to a safe place to sleep. **Since January 2007, more than 1,200 people in City-funded shelters have moved to stable housing.**
- **Transitional housing.** The City invests nearly \$1 million in 792 transitional housing units in programs run by agencies such as the Low Income Housing Institute, Muslim Housing Services, and Immanuel Cascade Emergency Services. Transitional housing is comprised of temporary housing and supportive services to help homeless people transition to long-term housing within two years.
- **Permanent supportive housing.** The City has invested \$28 million since 2005 in **new permanent housing** for homeless people, including \$6.5 million in new general fund resources specifically to create housing for disabled, long-term homeless people with the greatest needs. Seattle provides about \$1 million a year in operating and maintenance subsidy to this homeless housing. Adding the resources from partners like the County and United Way, collectively, we have helped **bring on-line 620 new housing units for homeless persons** during the last two years, with another 600 units under construction or in the works. Examples include the 1811 Building (run by DESC), Plymouth Housing's Plymouth on Stewart, and the Co-STAR program for people frequently in jail.
- **Other investments:**
 - King County voters passed the Veterans and Human Services Levy in 2005, which provides \$13 million a year for veterans, their families and others with a variety of housing and supportive services.
 - A recently approved King County sales tax will also increase services available to homeless people who need substance abuse and mental health services.
 - United Way has committed to raising \$25 million to help end chronic homelessness.